

package for their beleaguered farmers, to help them to increase farm production and export of these commodities, especially in the tribal dominated KBK region, with a view to improve their living;

(b) whether the Centre also proposes to extend financial and physical help to this backward State facilitate execution of this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the Government of Orissa, a package for farmers of the State was announced on 29.7.2006. The package, *inter alia*, covers measures for (i) enhancing the Seed Replacement Rates of different crops; (ii) sales of seeds through Sales centres extended to gram panchayat level; (iii) establishment of new Soil Testing Laboratories; (iv) encouraging farmers to adopt organic farming; (v) providing training to farmers at the block level under Krushak Sathi Programme; (vi) promotion of irrigation facilities including private lift irrigation point, execution of farm ponds for BPL persons in 8 drought-prone districts and creation of a minimum of 35% irrigation potential in each block; (vii) implementation of horticulture plantation programme; (viii) providing credit facilities through Kisan Credit Cards by the State Cooperative Banks; (ix) improved agricultural marketing facilities and (x) pisciculture and livestock development.

Further, a Special Plan for KBK districts is being administered by the Central Government since 2002-03 under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, now replaced by Backward Regions Grant Fund, on a 100% grant basis.

Stopping shifting cultivation

1800. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under-taken any ambitious step to stop shifting cultivation in the tribal areas during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States covered under the scheme;

(c) how many tribal people were given alternative employment under the scheme; and

(d) the States/districts where shifting cultivation is completely/ partially stopped due to this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Government of India is implementing a special central assistance to the State Plan Scheme of "Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)" from 1994-95 and is continuing during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Scheme aims at overall development of jhum areas on watershed basis reclaiming the land affected by shifting cultivation and socio-economic upliftment of jhumia families living in these areas by way of encouragement for adoption of settled agriculture.

(b) This scheme is being implemented in all North Eastern States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The financing pattern of the scheme is 100% grant. During first four year of the Tenth Plan (2002-06) an amount of Rs. 88.66 crore have been utilized for development of 0.898 lakh ha. area. During 2006-07 an amount of Rs. 40.00 crore is allocated to cover 0.40 lakh ha. area.

(c) During Tenth Five Year, 43967 families were given alternate employment through diversified agricultural practices, Horticulture development, Household activities and Livelihood support system for encouraging jhumias for adoption of settled agriculture.

(d) Evaluation Studies for selected watershed developed under the scheme of "Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas" for the States of Nagaland and Tripura have been conducted by different outside agencies. These studies has reported that there is partial decrease by 30% in jhum areas due to adoption of settled agriculture. The specific impact as reported by different evaluation studies are as under:—

- (i) Jhum area per family has been reduced from 0.84 hectare to 0.56 hectare.
- (ii) Increase in overall income by 25% of Jhumia families.
- (iii) Increase in cropping intensity by 40%.
- (iv) Sustainable increase in productivity of agricultural crops, horticultural crops, livestock, inland fisheries etc. was observed. In case of paddy cultivation, 13% increase in level of productivity was reported.